

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7729

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT AU YO

SUBJ: SLOVENE MINORITY ISSUE: CLASH IN CARINTHIA

REF: (A) VIENNA 6617, (B) BELGRADE 4700

1. GOY ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT AUG 12 IN REACTION TO INCIDENT AND ARRESTS IN CARINTHIA (REPORTED REF A):
QUOTE THE ACTIONS OF THE AUSTRIAN GENDARMERIE TOWARDS CARINTHIAN SLOVENES WHO WERE PEACEFULLY DEMONSTRATING AGAINST A CHAUVINISTIC MANIFESTATION OF THE "HEIMATDIENST" TESTIFY TO THE POSITION OF THE SLOVENIAN MINORITY AND TO A FURTHER CONTINUATION OF THREATS AND PRESSURES.
WE MOST ENERGETICALLY CONDEMN THESE ACTIONS BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT A FURTHER ESCALATION IN THE WORSENING OF THE ALREADY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH THE SLOVENIAN MINORITY IN AUSTRIA FINDS ITSELF. END QUOTE

2. STATEMENT WAS ISSUED IN THE FORM OF FSFA SPOKESMAN RESPONSE TO "TANJUG" QUERY AND WAS CARRIED IN AUG 13 DAILIES.

3. SINCE EARLY JULY, YUGOSLAV MEDIA HAS MAINTAINED DAILY BARRAGE OF CRITICISM AGAINST GOA ON MINORITIES
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ISSUE. FSFA STATEMENT RELATIVELY MILD IN RELATION TO

COMMENTARY BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS STAFF WRITER BOZIDAR DIKIC WHICH APPEARED AUG 12 IN "POLITIKA". DIKIC'S INFLAMMATORY PIECE IS FILLED WITH REFERENCES TO "HEIMATDIENST" AND "OTHER CHAUVINIST ORGANIZATIONS" BEING "FOLLOWERS OF THE NAZIS AND HITLER'S SUPPORTERS OF YESTERDAY." HE CLAIMS THAT NEW AUSTRIAN LAWS HAVE INSPIRED "REVIVAL AND STIRRING UP OF ULTRA-NATIONALIST CHAUVINISM AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF POGROM-LIKE HYSTERIA." ALSO RAISES QUESTION OF VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 9 OF STATE TREATY FOR FAILING TO REMOVE ALL TRACES OF NAZISM FROM AUSTRIAN LIFE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE MANY YUGOSLAVS PRIVATELY ARE BLASE' OVER SUBJECT, SOME OFFICIALS (INCLUDING DEP FOREIGN SECRETARY MOJSOV WHO IS MACEDONIAN AND THUS ALLIED WITH SLOVENES ON MINORITY ISSUES) ARE HARDLINERS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUATION OF PRESS CAMPAIGN UNTIL RESOLUTION (FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT) OF CENSUS QUESTION. MEANWHILE, INCIDENTS SUCH AS AT ST. KANZIAN WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE FUEL FOR YUGOSLAV CRITICISM.
CAB SILBERMAN

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